

REMARKS

I. Introduction

This amendment is filed in response to the Official Action dated July 13, 2004 for the above-identified patent application. A two (2) month extension to the time for responding to the Official Action is requested and the appropriate fee is enclosed.

Claims 1 and 4-39 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 18-38 have been withdrawn and claims 1 and 4-10 have been rejected. Claims 11-17 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the recitations of objected claim 11 and intervening claim 7. Claims 7 and 11 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added.

II. The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 Should Be Withdrawn

Claims 1, 4-7, 10 and 39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of U. S. Patent No. 3,811,857 to Deeg et al. ("Deeg et al.") further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,531,272 to Menear ("Menear"). Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the recitations of objected claim 11 and intervening claim 7. As noted by the Examiner, Claims 11-17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, as amended the recitations of claim 1 are not obvious in view of Deeg et al. further in view of Menear. Since claims 4-7, 10 and 39 depend from claim 1, these dependent claim are also patentable for at least the same reasons. Therefore, in view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 4-7, 10 and 39 as obvious in view of U. S. Patent No. 3,811,857 to Deeg et al. ("Deeg et al.") in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,531,272 to Menear ("Menear") is respectfully requested.

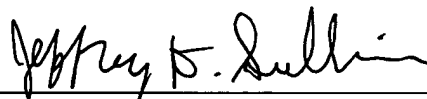
Claims 8 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of U. S. Patent No. 3,811,857 to Deeg et al. ("Deeg et al.") in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,531,272 to Menear ("Menear") further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,876,149 to Futerko ("Futerko"). As stated above, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the recitations of objected claim 11 and intervening claim 7. Therefore, as amended the recitations of claim 1 are not obvious in view of Deeg et al. further in view of Menear and Futerko. As claims 8 and 9 depend from claim 1, dependent claims 8 and 9 are patentable for at least the same reasons. Therefore, in view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8 and 9 as obvious in view of U. S. Patent No. 3,811,857 to Deeg et al. ("Deeg et al.") in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,531,272 to Menear ("Menear") further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,876,149 to Futerko ("Futerko") is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

It is believed that no additional fee is required in connection with this response. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fee or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-4377.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, allowance of claims 1, 4-6, 8-10 and 12-17 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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